

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:168
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
CONSERVATION OF GROUND WATER
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Expert Committee of Planning Commission has requested the Union Government to intervene in the matter of conservation of ground water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee has given any details to the Government regarding depletion of ground water table; and
- (d) if so, details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b) The Expert Group constituted by the Planning Commission on 'Ground Water Management and Ownership' made suggestions, which include the following :-

- (i) Artificial recharge of ground water for augmentation of ground water supply in shallow aquifers;
- (ii) Tapping of huge 'static' water reserves in deeper aquifers;
- (iii) Strengthening institutional infrastructure, enabling legislation and appropriate economic incentive structure;
- (iv) Modification of current regulatory frame work making it more equitable and easier to implement;
- (v) Need to introduce a modified ground water legislation and encompassing the role and responsibility of Water User Groups, Government and Panchayati Raj Institutions;
- (vi) Placing of reliance on community management of resource, supported by adequate technical inputs, complementary institutional changes and appropriate incentives;
- (vii) Adopting of a sustainable - yield management goal wherein the average withdrawal should not exceed long-term recharge;
- (viii) The areas where ground water level falls below the replenishable level, the areas be declared as 'environmentally threatened'.

(c)&(d) The Expert Committee in it's report has indicated that out of 5723 assessment units assessed jointly by State Ground Water Departments and Central Ground Water Board in the country, 71% (4078) assessment units are in safe category and remaining 29% (1645) units are categorised as semi-critical, critical or over-exploited. The State-wise details of over- exploited, critical and semi-critical assessment units as given in the report are Annexed.